

**Halifax gamers  
gain access to  
Area 51** metroNEWS

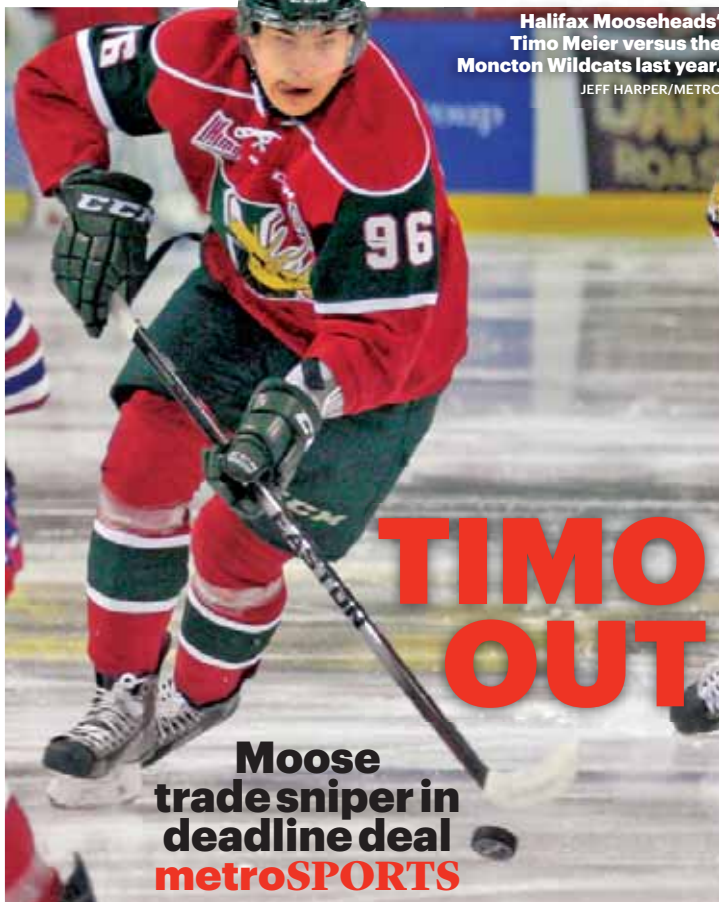
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metroNEWS

# Halifax metro



Your essential **96 NEWS** | THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016

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Halifax Mooseheads' Timo Meier versus the Moncton Wildcats last year.  
JEFF HARPER/METRO

**TIMO  
OUT**

**Moose  
trade sniper in  
deadline deal**  
metroSPORTS

## Budget sheared, safety feared

### MUNICIPALITY

**Cuts at park and  
rec concerning for  
some councillors**



**Zane  
Woodford**  
Metro | Halifax

Cuts to the municipality's department of parks and recreation have some worried about its ability to keep up with cutting the grass.

At Wednesday's meeting on the 2016-17 budget, the committee of the whole voted to direct staff to prepare the parks and recreation budget as presented, complete with a cut of nearly \$650,000 compared to last year's budget.

"Basically we have trimmed everything we possibly can in every category," parks and recreation director Brad Anguish told the committee.

Those cuts include eliminating five vacant positions, as well as cutting costs on contracts, building

materials and costs, communications and general expenses.

The cuts have some regional councillors concerned that the condition of fields in the municipality could be further degraded after complaints across the municipality about the state of the city's fields last season.

"You can only fall on your sword so many times. We could've done better, we should've done better, we will do better," Anguish said. "There are so many assets, so few resources, we play to really the lowest common denominator: That is, player safety."

For Jeff Blair, a board member at Disc Nova Scotia, the provincial association for ultimate Frisbee and disc golf, that lowest common denominator hasn't been good enough.

"What we've seen is that safety is not quite enough," he said after Wednesday's meeting, where he spoke to the committee about field conditions.

"A lot of the fields that ultimate Frisbee players play on, the turf is generally very poor quality and there's



**I think I can say  
I'm pretty much out  
of slack.**

Brad Anguish

things like potholes and divots."

He said that can lead to sprained ankles and other injuries.

Coun. Wayne Mason agreed the city needs to look at the field standards, and adopt different grades for different fields.

But for now, the budget won't allow it.

"I'm comfortable with the budget going ahead this year, but we're going to have to have a conversation before next year about, 'is this sustainable, or do we need to look at really significant reinvestment?'"

Anguish said staff will be looking at whether there is an oversupply of parkland in the municipality over the coming year, and considering selling off land.



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## ATTACK

### Man wounded in elevator stabbing

Halifax police say a 24-year-old man faces charges after a bizarre attack in an elevator at a Halifax hospital.

A 52-year-old man sustained several small puncture wounds after he was stabbed with a small pair of scissors during the altercation at the IWK Health Centre.

Police say the men knew each other and the attack wasn't random.

The suspect, later identified as Mohamed Issak of Halifax, was apprehended by hospital security and police say he faces

## + MOTIVE

Halifax Regional Police spokeswoman Const. Dianne Woodworth told Metro she couldn't speak to the alleged motive behind the attack.

charges including assault with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm and threats.

Police say the victim was treated for minor injuries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## ACTIVISM

### Human rights board appoints new leader

Lawyer and diplomat Christine Hanson has been named the new head of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

Hanson, a Halifax native and Dalhousie University law graduate, is the current minister-counsellor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Diana Whalen, the minister responsible for the Human Rights Commission, says Hanson will be a strong

advocate for human rights in the province.

Hanson received the Building a Better World alumni award from Dalhousie in 2014, and was also an International Women's Forum Global Leadership Foundation Fellow in 2014-15.

## START DATE

Christine Hanson will take over her new role as director and CEO on Feb. 8.

She takes over the top job at the commission from interim director and CEO Michelle

Higgins, who is a senior solicitor with the provincial Justice Department.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## DARTMOUTH CRIME

### Man given several charges after high-speed car chase

A man who allegedly fled police in Dartmouth on Tuesday has been charged with two counts of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, two counts of fleeing from police and failure to stop at the scene of an accident.

At 7:19 p.m. Tuesday, police say they tried stopping a car that ran a red light at the intersection of Windmill Road and Wright Avenue.

The suspect vehicle allegedly fled at high speed and police discontinued pursuit after

getting the licence plate number.

The car was then involved in a minor collision at the 118 Highway ramp where it side-swiped another car but didn't stop, the release stated.

Enfield RCMP located the suspect vehicle on Highway 102 but the driver only stopped after Bible Hill RCMP deployed a spike belt near exit 13.

The driver, Omar Abdullah O. Mashraee, 23, of Halifax was arrested at the scene without incident, police said in a release.

METRO



Andrew MacIntosh works to extract liquid from a century-old bottle, recovered from Halifax Harbour by an amateur scuba diver, at the Canadian Institute of Fermentation Technology at Dalhousie University Tuesday. JON CROUSE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## 'Odd, meaty' flavour

### INDIA PALE ALE

### Expert tastes beer from 125-year-old bottle

An expert on fermentation says lab tests have confirmed the sudsy liquid inside a century-old bottle found recently at the bottom of Halifax harbour is in fact beer — a type of India pale ale that has an "odd, meaty" flavour.

Andrew MacIntosh, a professor at Dalhousie University, says he tried a sip of the ancient brew "for the sake of science." He says it smelled like a burnt barrel with a bit of sulphur thrown in, but he insisted there were lighter tree fruit notes and the dis-

tinct bitterness of an once strong ale.

MacIntosh, who works with the newly formed Canadian Institute for Fermentation Technology, talked about his unusual findings during an interview from his Halifax office on Wednesday.

### What did it taste like?

I wouldn't refer to it as tasty, but it was a lot better than I was expecting. It was astringent, a little salty. I was able to detect bitterness, but not obscenely so ... and there was definitely an odd, meaty flavour, which I presumed was from some of the nitrogen that would break down from the yeast.

I expected far more salt

**I wouldn't refer to it as tasty, but it was a lot better than I was expecting.**

Andrew MacIntosh

concentration and that it would be much less recognizable as a fermentation product. It had characteristics that clearly could be linked to a modern fermentation of barley.

### What did it smell like?

It had a very strong odour. It wasn't altogether pleasant, but it was indicative that it wasn't seawater

... There was a burnt, barrel-like smell to it. That wasn't pleasant, but it wasn't completely off-putting.

### What did you hope to learn from these tests?

We didn't know that it was beer. It was a mystery liquid going in. As I study fermentation, it would provide great historical perspective to know how they brewed previously and how fermentation techniques have developed over the years

We have records of how much grain was used, how much malt was used, how much barley. However, the techniques for brewing have changed considerably.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### MASTER OF MEMORY

## A day to remember for N.S. student



Haley Ryan  
Metro | Halifax

To many people, the idea of memorizing 1,000 digits in under an hour seems impossible.

But one Nova Scotia student has done just that and more, making history as Canada's first International Master of Memory during the 24th annual

World Memory Championship a few weeks ago in December.

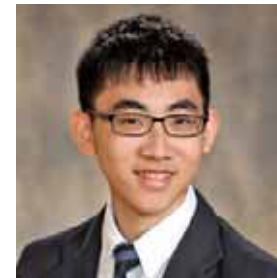
"It's a phenomenal accomplishment," said Chris Strickey, director of admissions at King's-Edgehill School in Windsor, where Grade 10 student Evan Xie attends.

Strickey said Xie has become one of only 160 people in the world to receive the distinction.

To receive the award, a person must complete three feats

at the competition: memorize a minimum of 1,000 digits in random sequence in one hour, memorize a minimum of 12 decks of randomly shuffled cards in one hour, and memorize one card deck in less than two minutes.

Xie went beyond the minimum as he memorized 1,180 digits in one hour and a single deck of poker cards in 32.275 seconds, which is not far from the world record, a release said.



Evan Xie CONTRIBUTED





Freak Lunchbox co-owner Erin Smith stands in front of a gigantic mural on the side of the Barrington Street store on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

# ‘Groundbreaking’ art for city

## RECOGNITION

### Downtown mural appears on global top 20 list for 2015



**Yvette d'Entremont**  
Metro | Halifax

An international online urban art collective has named Halifax's Freak Lunchbox mural as one of its top 20

best murals of 2015.

The colourful piece covering the George Street side of the candy store's building came in at No. 14 in the All City Canvas top 20 picks from around the world.

It was also the only Canadian mural to make the list, joining urban pieces from cities in Spain, Brazil, Norway, Austria, Lithuania, Mexico and the U.S.

"The crazy thing is in planning this mural, those are the murals I looked at. I was like, 'I love this one in Spain, I love this one in Mexico,'" recalled Freak Lunchbox co-owner Erin Smith.

"You can hope and dream but

what are the chances that you would join this international list and get something that fantastic?"

Smith learned Dec. 29 that the mural commissioned by her business had nabbed the 14th-place spot. This was especially gratifying in light of the controversy that initially swirled around the mural before its completion last September.

The "Tall Ships 2000" mural that had graced the same wall for 15 years was painted over to accommodate the new piece and not everyone was happy about it.

"The whole backlash, or if

there was this resistance to having it being done in the first place, I should have expected it but it was bigger than I thought," Smith said.

Montreal-based mural artist Jason Botkin created the piece in collaboration with Smith. It took him five and a half days to complete the work.

"Because we were taking down a piece that was a very Maritime-based subject we decided to put up something that was kind of along the same vein so it would be more easily received," Smith recalled.

"We weren't going to do

## + ONLINE

A short video profiling all 20 mural winners for 2015, including the Freak Lunchbox piece, can be found online at [allcitycanvas.com/all-city-canvas-top-20-best-murals-of-2015](http://allcitycanvas.com/all-city-canvas-top-20-best-murals-of-2015).

something public let alone that size until we were thrilled with it so when we got the final drawing we knew it was a yes."

Smith said the mural's international recognition puts Halifax

on the map because outside of Montreal, this art medium is new to Canada. She said Halifax, and most of Canada, is still a blank slate.

"I think it is groundbreaking for Halifax because it is a city that has so much room for change and opportunity.... But people have to embrace change first before that can happen," she said.

"Hopefully it opens people's minds to change. People need to have some reference points in order to not be afraid and in order to realize that change benefits them and the city."

## ALL CITY CANVAS'S TOP THREE INTERNATIONAL MURALS:



**Okuda San Miguel for Kaos Temple at La Iglesia del Skate in Asturias, Spain.** CONTRIBUTED



**Alexis Diaz & INTI for O.bra Festival in Sao Paulo, Brazil.** CONTRIBUTED



**D\*Face for ACC Global Series x British Council in Mexico City.** CONTRIBUTED



# 'It's building community'

## GAMING

## Area 51 lounge offers gamers a place to come together



**Haley Ryan**  
Metro | Halifax

Halifax has landed its own Area 51 and all you need is a love of gaming to get in.

The city's newest gaming lounge opened Tuesday near the corner of Spring Garden Road and Robie Street with 16 computer stations, consoles like Xbox and Playstation 4, comfy chairs and snacks inside the red-and-black walls.

"Just coming here knowing that you'd find people all playing the same game — it's building community," said co-owner Ramy Police inside Area 51 Gaming Lounge on Wednesday, which shares the name of the top-secret American base.

"Having the social aspect really of it, that's the most important part."

Police, 20, said he and his business partner saw a demand for somewhere gamers could come together to socialize and participate in tournaments, with their first one planned for February.

Fans of popular games including League of Legends, Counter Strike: Global Offensive, Dota 2, World of Warcraft, and StarCraft can log in to play at any station for \$2.99 an hour after creating an ac-



**Area 51 co-owner Ramy Police plays in one of the gaming rooms** at the store's Spring Garden Location Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

count for \$9.99, Police said.

Rooms can also be booked out for teams looking to practice together, while the console room with Xbox and Playstation has many sports games like NHL and NBA titles, and a Wii/GameCube room fea-

turing Mario Party and Super Smash Bros. games is in the works.

Area 51 is the only gaming spot of its kind in the city, and Police said he is hoping to avoid the pitfalls of PVP Bar & Gaming Lounge that

closed on Lower Water Street over a year ago.

"We focus on gaming and nothing other than gaming," Police said.

"That's how we plan on hopefully surviving in this industry."

Being close to Dalhousie and Saint Mary's universities will hopefully draw lots of gamers, Police said, but younger teens are welcome to the lounge since it has no liquor license.

A long-time gamer himself, Police said he realizes most people log on late at night so although the lounge has official hours until midnight, or 2:30 a.m. on the weekends, it can stay open for hours later if there are people having fun and filling the space.

If the business does well, Police said he'd like to expand to a second location in the city with a liquor license, then other Canadian cities like Toronto.



**I picked up gaming and ... grew up wanting to meet everyone in that industry.**

Ramy Police

## ATLANTIC LOTTERY

## Taking bets on U.S. race

Atlantic Canadians captivated by the U.S. presidential race can now put their political instincts to the money test: The regional lottery corporation is for the first time taking bets on the fate of Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and the rest of the field.

The Atlantic Lottery Corp. is taking advantage of Canadians' fascination with U.S. politics by taking bets through its Pro-Line platform on the outcome of the Democratic and Republican nominations as well as the presidency.

It's a first for the corporation, though spokeswoman Christine Manore said it has previously taken so-called novelty bets on Academy Award winners or televised singing competitions such as The Voice. "It's a very quickly changing industry," Manore said from Moncton, N.B. "We're just looking to expand and find different options to interest our players and we thought this might be a neat one."

Pro-Line is primarily a sports-betting game with odds set independently by a team from Atlantic Lottery.

The payout is based on the player's selection and odds at the time of the ticket purchase. A \$2 bet Wednesday for Clinton as the Democratic presidential candidate could pay out a mere \$2.10. Risk-takers placing the same bet on Martin O'Malley could walk away with just over \$134 if he pulled out a surprise win.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## CHARITY

## Talking tree raises big bucks



**Yvette d'Entremont**  
Metro | Halifax

Brad Johns took a lot of heat for spending \$25,000 of his district's discretionary funds on a talking Christmas tree, but he said he always knew the idea was a good one.

The councillor for Middle/Upper Sackville-Beaver Bank-Lucasville said that Tinsel the animatronic talking tree raised \$12,800 in food and donations for Beacon House Food Bank during its Christmas run last month.

Coupled with its short inaugural series of shows in Decem-

ber 2014, Sackville's talking tree has raised more than \$19,000 for charity.

"Yes, I took some slack for spending that money from my district fund but sometimes you have to believe in yourself and the ideas you bring forward that you know are just going to work for your district," Johns said.

"What this year showed was that all the goals that we wanted to meet with this tree — the economical, social and fundraising — it met all of those in Year Two."

The animated tree is about 18 feet high and was ordered from a company in California.



**Tinsel, Sackville's talking Christmas tree.** FACEBOOK

It is programmable and ran a series of children's shows in the lead-up to Christmas.

"We are quite happy with everything that has been accomplished. And the tree has potentially another seven to eight years life expectancy," Johns said.

"If we can continue to grow what we are doing, which we know we can, then the results by the end will be phenomenal."

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Halifax Public Libraries is asking the city for \$130,000 less in the budget this year thanks to its surprise \$265,000 in extra revenue. JEFF HARPER

# Library popularity adds extra revenue

## SUCCESS STORY

### Space rental brings in cash, helps budget



**Zane Woodford**  
Metro | Halifax

The success of the Halifax Central Library has translated to significant cost savings for the municipality.

At Wednesday's meeting on the 2016-17 budget, the committee of the whole voted to direct staff to prepare the Halifax Public Libraries budget as presented, coming in at about \$130,000 less than this year's.

Halifax Public Libraries CEO and head librarian, Asa Kachan, told the committee her department increased its revenue by about \$265,000 — not by increasing late fees, room rent-

al costs or parking rates, but simply because its original estimates based on the demand for library services were conservative.

"We've discovered that there is an interest in the community, there's a desire to use those spaces," she said.

"This reflects the revenue that we'll generate for the library."

There are 14 rooms at the central library that can be rented during open hours or after hours, and they're now booking months in advance.

That made it easier for Kachan to hit a target handed to her by management to bring the budget for Halifax Public Libraries to \$19.4 million for 2016-17, but four vacant positions were also cut to hit the target.

"There's a little give and take in there. I think we can continue to do great things and I'm going to do the best I can with the

## 1.9 million

The number of people who stepped in the doors of the Halifax Central Library in its first year, a million more than the original estimate of 900,000 visitors.

money I've received," she said.

Coun. Wayne Mason is the vice-chair of the municipality's library board.

He said with demands increasing across the municipality at all branches, that might be it for cuts.

"There really isn't a lot of slack in the library board," he said. "I think the ability to find cost savings in the library is almost done."

The central library's popularity has far outpaced expectations.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Finance minister is guest speaker



**Yvette d'Entremont**  
Metro | Halifax

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce will welcome Canada's Minister of Finance William Morneau on Monday to its first Distinguished Speakers Series luncheon of 2016.

This will mark Morneau's first Halifax address since Trudeau's Liberal government took office. The event is part of a week of cross-country consultations to inform the new government's first federal budget.



**William Morneau**  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

During his speech, Morneau will provide an overview of the country's current eco-

nomie situation and encourage conversation on how best to strengthen the middle class and boost economic growth.

"We are excited to welcome Minister Morneau to Halifax for his first visit as the federal minister of finance," Valerie Payn, President and CEO of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, said in a news release.

"With the new government in place, our members our anticipating changes that will help small business and improve the economic prosperity of Halifax."

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## INDIGENOUS ISSUES

## Families meet to talk about coming inquiry

The families of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls have been gathering for years — to share their stories, support each other and call for action — but this time was different.

Now that the federal government has committed to holding a national inquiry into the more than 1,200 First Nations, Métis and Inuit women and girls who have been murdered or gone missing in Canada, families came together in Thunder Bay Wednesday to share their hopes and fears of what it should set out to achieve.

“A lot of people were feeling that they were finally going to have an opportunity to have some closure,” said deputy grand chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which represents 49 First Nations in northern Ontario. “Maybe the justice may not

take place, but I think even being provided an opportunity to be heard on their concerns and having an opportunity to change the present process,” said Achneepineskum, who was at the pre-inquiry consultation meeting Wednesday afternoon.

So were Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett and Status of Women Minister Patricia Hajdu, who along with Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould are hearing from families, national indigenous organizations, frontline service providers and other stakeholders as part of their pre-inquiry consultation process.

The ministers are scheduled to hold similar meetings in Yellowknife, Whitehorse, Vancouver, Prince George, B.C., Halifax, Quebec City and Montreal before the end of the month.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



**They will leave this meeting and go home with the memories of their loved ones.**

Chief Connie Gray MacKay

## SOCIAL MEDIA

## Shovelling trio don't miss an African beat

For Richard Laubonet, the important thing in life is to put joy in everything you do.

And that's exactly what the African dance and fitness instructor did when he and two friends picked up shovels to clear an area of a park in north-end Montreal.

In a video that has since garnered almost 380,000 views on Facebook, Laubonet and friends Kevin Noah (from Cameroon) and Abdul Somade (from Togo) fling heaps of snow over their shoulders in a choreographed dance set to African music.

They laugh and sing and use their shovels as props while moving in unison in the impromptu dance in the snow.

“I'm still blown away. I just can't believe it,” Laubonet said

about the response the video has received.

Laubonet said he had just finished leading a fitness class outdoors when he saw that a children's play area was covered in snow.

He asked his friends to clear it with him so kids could have access, and that's when he got the idea to dance and sing when their job was almost done.

“It's very rare to see someone go outside to dance while shovelling. It's not something that we do very often while having a lot fun,” he said with a laugh.

“Also the fact that we're three Africans, and seeing as how in our home countries there is no snow, people may see it as a good example of integration.”

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Richard Laubonet, Kevin Noah, and Abdul Somade sing and use shovels as props while dancing to move snow. SCREENSHOT

## WILDLIFE

## Who's white, black and cute all over?

Newly named male polar bear cubs York and Eli are shown at Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo. The zoo says York refers to York Factory First Nation, which has traditional lands that include important polar bear denning habitats. Eli is named in honour of an elder from the First Nation that lived and hunted in the area between the Nelson and Hayes Rivers.

HANDOUT/ASSINIBOINE ZOO/  
THE CANADIAN PRESS



# Ottawa faces heat for Tories' IT rules

## CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE

## Decision took away ability of courts to select own purchases

Newly released documents show the country's highest court is ready to launch a legal battle with the federal government over new IT rules which the Supreme Court of Canada fears would threaten its independence.

The Supreme Court is not alone in these concerns: the Federal Court, Federal Court of Appeal, Court Martial Appeal

Court and Tax Court are all prepared to launch a constitutional challenge against having the government's super-IT department involved in their digital affairs.

The federal Liberals are now left to decide how to handle an issue created by a decision of the previous Conservative government that came into effect during the federal election.

That decision forced the courts to go through Shared Services Canada for all IT purchases, such as servers, routers and software, rather than letting them make the procurements on their own. The courts had that power until Sept. 1, when the new rules kicked in and made

them a “mandatory client” of Shared Services Canada, which oversees purchases and digital services for 43 of the heaviest IT users in the federal government.

The move approved by the Conservative cabinet in May 2015 was supposed to save money, since Shared Services Canada buys in bulk for the federal government, and improve digital security, because Shared Services Canada buys from safe suppliers.

Briefing material provided to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shortly after he took office shows the courts were worried that having a government department involved in their IT services “and

the perceived implications for control of their data” infringed on judicial independence.

“They must maintain control of their data, not only because of concerns about confidentiality, but also because an independent judiciary cannot tolerate having its sensitive information controlled by a separate branch of government,” reads part of Trudeau's briefing on urgent issues facing the new government.

If the government doesn't backtrack on the cabinet decision, the country's top judges “are prepared to take legal action,” Trudeau was warned.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

## Canada can't sway North Korea: Experts

Beyond a gesture of support for China and South Korea and perhaps a renewed international push on the nuclear weapons issue, Canada has few options in the wake of North Korea's claimed H-bomb test, analysts say.

Like most of the civilized world, Canada has little leverage to influence North Korea to curb its nuclear ambitions despite the fact it has real economic and security interests in Asia.

That view emerged Wednesday from a variety of analysts, activists and observers as Pyong-

yang announced it had detonated a hydrogen bomb — a claim that the United States eventually cast doubt on.

Regardless, the incident was seen as one more wake-up call about the continuing threat posed by the despotic, nuclear-armed Hermit Kingdom and the apparent powerlessness of Canada and its allies to face it down.

David Mulroney, former Canadian ambassador to China and a senior fellow at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs, said the simple fact that “something (is) going off 50 miles

**I don't think there's anything we can do, but it should remind us ... we do have global interests.**

David Mulroney

from the Chinese border” shocks, surprises and scares China — and that's bad for Canada.

“China is our second-largest trading partner and a country on China's borders is doing really destabilizing and unsettling things, so we should pay attention to that,” said Mulroney.

Conservative foreign affairs

critic Tony Clement said Trudeau should use the newfound bonhomie he cultivated in his initial meetings last fall with the leaders of China and South Korea to offer support.

“It should be part of any discussions Mr. Trudeau has with their leaderships,” Clement said in an interview. THE CANADIAN PRESS





## ROYAL FAMILY

## Young prince has class

The heir to the heir to the heir to the British throne has started nursery school.

Prince William and his wife Kate marked the occasion by releasing two photographs of two-and-a-half-year-old George outside the school building.

The royal couple had earlier announced he would be attending Westacre Montessori School in Norfolk, 180 kilometres north of London.

The school has said he will receive the same treatment as other pupils.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Prince William and wife Kate released these images of son George on his first day at school. CONTRIBUTED/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## UNITED STATES

## Gun measures fall short

The gun control measures a tearful President Barack Obama announced Tuesday would not have prevented the slaughters of 20 first-graders at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, or 14 county workers at a holiday party in San Bernardino, Calif.

Obama's executive action expands mandatory background checks to gun shows, flea markets and online sales, adds more than 230 examiners and staff to help process them and calls on states to submit accurate and updated criminal history data.

Those measures are seen as crucial to stemming gun suicides — the cause of two-thirds of gun deaths — by blocking immediate access to weapons. But an Associated Press review shows they would have had no impact in keeping weapons from suspects in several of the deadli-

est recent mass shootings. The shooters at Sandy Hook and San Bernardino used weapons bought by others, shielding them from background checks. In other cases, the shooters legally bought guns.

In Aurora, Colo., and at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., men undergoing mental health treatment were cleared to buy weapons because federal background checks looked to criminal histories and court-ordered commitments for signs of mental illness. The suspect in a shooting at a church in Charleston, S.C., should have been flagged at the time, but errors and delays cleared the way for his purchase. Obama rejected the idea that undermines the changes are not worth pursuing.

"We maybe can't save everybody, but we could save some," Obama said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IN BRIEF

## Iraq offers to mediate

Iraq has offered to mediate between Saudi Arabia and Iran after tensions soared following the kingdom's execution of a Shiite cleric. Iraq's Shiite-led government relies on Iranian help to battle the Islamic State group, but is also trying to repair ties to oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Violence shortens life expectancy in Mexico

A new study suggests that at its peak, Mexico's drug violence was so bad it caused male life expectancy to drop by months. Experts say from 2005-2010, homicide rates increased from 9.5 homicides per 100,000 people in 2005 to more than 22 in 2010. It's now 16 per 100,000 in 2014. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# H-bomb threat provokes world

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

## North Korea condemned globally for its actions

Soon after the ground shook around its nuclear testing facility, North Korea trumpeted its first hydrogen bomb test — a self-proclaimed "H-bomb of justice" that would mark a major and unanticipated advance for its still-limited nuclear arsenal.

The announcement Wednesday by the defiant, impoverished country was met with widespread skepticism, as well as a strong condemnation by the UN Security Council, which said it would begin work on a resolution for new international sanctions.

North Korea's fourth nuclear

test likely pushed its scientists and engineers closer to their goal of building a warhead small enough to place on a missile that can reach the U.S. mainland. But South Korea's spy agency thought the estimated explosive yield from the blast was much smaller than what even a failed hydrogen bomb detonation would produce, and the White House said its early analysis of underground activity "is not consistent" with the North's claim of a successful H-bomb test.

There was high-level concern in Seoul and elsewhere. South Korean President Park Geun-hye ordered her military to bolster its combined defence posture with U.S. forces. She called the test a "grave provocation" and "an act that threatens our lives and future." Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said, "We absolutely cannot allow

66

**We absolutely cannot allow this.**

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

this."

U.S. Defence Secretary Ash Carter spoke by phone with his South Korean counterpart Han Min-Koo, and they agreed that a North Korean nuclear test would be an "unacceptable and irresponsible provocation," according to Carter's spokesman, Peter Cook.

North Korea goes to great lengths to conceal its tests by conducting them underground and tightly sealing off tunnels or other vents through which radioactive residue could escape. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS

## How the H-bomb works

North Korea's announcement has returned a phrase not often heard since the Cold War — "the H-bomb."

As opposed to the atomic bomb (which relies on atomic splitting, like nuclear power plants), the hydrogen bomb, or so-called "super-bomb" uses fusion (the fusing of atomic nuclei) to produce explosive energy —

that's how the sun produces energy. The H-bomb can be far more powerful — experts say, by 1,000 times or more.

The technology of the hydrogen bomb is more sophisticated, and once attained, it is a greater threat. They can be made small enough to fit on a head of an intercontinental missile.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. hydrogen bomb test May 21, 1956. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**"I need a change... a real career."**



Actor, portrayals.

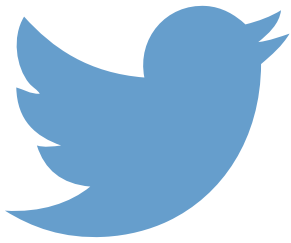


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# Twitter is not tied to 140-character limit

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### CEO tweets screenshot of 1,325-character message

Twitter appears ready to loosen its decade-old restriction on the length of messages in a bid to make its service more appealing to a wider audience accustomed to the greater freedom offered by Facebook and other forums.

CEO and co-founder Jack Dorsey telegraphed Twitter's intentions in a tweet posted Tuesday after the technology news site Re/Code reported the company is exploring increasing its limits on text from 140

characters to as many as 10,000.

Dorsey didn't directly address the Re/Code report that cited unnamed people, but he made it clear that Twitter isn't wedded to the 140-character limit. He illustrated his point by posting a screenshot of a text consisting of 1,325 characters.

If Twitter were to allow tweets to span 10,000 characters, it could produce 1,700-word dissertations, based on the size of Dorsey's extended post. In his message, Dorsey wrote that Twitter has already noticed that many of its roughly 300 million users already have been including screenshots of lengthy texts in their tweets. He indicated Twitter is examining ways to give people more room to express themselves without polluting the



Twitter co-founder and CEO Jack Dorsey telegraphed that change is coming in a tweet on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

service with gasbags.

Imposing some restraint "inspires creativity and brevity. And a sense of speed. We will never lose that feeling," Dorsey pledged.

At the same time, Dorsey said Twitter isn't "going to be shy about building more utility and power into Twitter for people. As long as it's consistent with what people want to

do, we're going to explore it."

Analysts said Dorsey is probably trying to avoid a backlash among long-time Twitter users who consider the 140-character tweeting limit sacred. At the same time, he needs to respond to company shareholders pinning for a bigger audience that would generate more advertising revenue.

More revenue eventually

could help Twitter turn a profit for the first time in its history.

Twitter can't afford "to become stagnant, they need to get bigger if they want to build a more relevant advertising platform," said Topeka Capital Markets analyst Blake Harper.

After a long streak of robust growth that turned it into one of the Internet's hottest companies, Twitter's growth has slowed dramatically during the past year-and-half to leave it scrambling to catch up with social networking leader Facebook and its 1.5 billion users.

The pressure has been building on Dorsey to take drastic measures to accelerate user growth as Twitter's stock has sunk further below its November 2013 initial public offering price of \$26 US. The shares shed 64 cents Tuesday to close at \$21.92, a decline of nearly 40 per cent from where they stood from when Dorsey became CEO last summer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IN BRIEF

### Star Wars unseats Avatar

In just 20 days in theatres, Star Wars: The Force Awakens has unseated Avatar as the No. 1 North American movie of all time. As of Tuesday, the film was just shy of the record at \$758.2 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### TransCanada to file claim

TransCanada Corp. says it intends to file a claim under Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement in response to the U.S. government's rejection of its Keystone XL pipeline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## market minute

	<b>DOLLAR</b> 71.02¢ (-0.46¢)
	<b>TSX</b> 12,726.80 (-193.34)
	<b>OIL</b> \$33.97 US (-\$2.00)
	<b>GOLD</b> \$1,091.90 US (+\$13.50)

**NATURAL GAS:** \$2.267 US (-5.8¢)  
**DOW JONES:** 16,906.51 (-252.15)

**“As long as it's consistent with what people want to do, we're going to explore it.”** Jack Dorsey



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## ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

### Charlie Hebdo is just not interesting enough to offend me

Despite being Catholic, I'm not offended by the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo's new cover depicting God as a Kalashnikov-wielding terrorist.

I suppose I could be — the Vatican newspaper is — but that would mean taking the editorial position of the notoriously inflammatory publication seriously. And I don't.

To be clear: The attack one year ago today at Charlie Hebdo's Paris offices was unconscionable, as was the subsequent attack on a Jewish supermarket in the city, which together killed 17 people.

But demeaning faith in the most violent pen strokes is the magazine's raison d'être, and so I'm not surprised or offended by Charlie Hebdo marking the anniversary with everything it's got.

According to the Associated Press, the magazine features editorials attacking "university students who wear veils or openly pray in classrooms, hospital patients who refuse medical treatment from someone of the opposite sex, and France's intelligence community. Mixed in were blasphemous caricatures targeting a range of beliefs, obscene sketches" and colourful profanity.

One editor wrote the magazine is commemorating colleagues who died "for daring to laugh at religion."

Richard Rohr, a prominent U.S. Catholic priest, has said

he loves when atheists laugh at religions for stories like the Garden of Eden, because "No one believes that." Those stories are metaphors, he says, intended to describe a God who is otherwise indescribable.

Charlie Hebdo's atheism is as simplistic as laughing at a virgin birth. The magazine is practically fundamental in its anti-religious stance. Meanwhile, globally, eight in 10 people identify with a religion.

The magazine doesn't even speak to the more secular western experience of faith. In Canada, for example, fully 73 per cent of people believe in God, though only 30 per cent subscribe to a religion.

Not only does a cover like yesterday's not surprise me, then, it doesn't even stimulate me intellectually. The magazine can heap scorn better than most, but it has a juvenile understanding of that which it hates, and constructs no reasonable alternative.

The magazine makes the mistake of thinking insulting people is, de facto, a worthy goal, and in its commitment to offend and anger strangers, it has something in common with terrorist propaganda videos (on a far lesser scale).

On the other hand, the magazine does support the free movement of ideas by exploring the outermost reaches of free speech.

I'll give it that, and then get on with my faith.

## the big question

# Will Obama's tears endear Americans to gun control?

Well, he's unlikely to sway the NRA, but as far as emotional impact goes, **breaking down on live TV isn't a bad strategy for the president.** Scientists have many theories about why adults cry, given that, unlike children, they can use words to express what's wrong. Some speculate that crying evolved as an "attachment behaviour"; it's a way to ask others for help when words fail us. And in fact, some studies suggest that photos of teary faces and sad stories with characters who cry both cause research participants to feel sympathetic sadness and a desire to support and comfort the crying person. If President Barack Obama — who choked up Tuesday while enumerating the seemingly endless mass shootings that have rocked the U.S. during his presidency — elicited such empathy in his audience, logically they'd want to support his plan to ensure all gun dealers are licensed and conduct background checks. That's guaranteed to make the gun nuts want to weep.

# Politician + alcoholism does not equal Rob Ford



Michael Coren  
For Metro

To state the bitterly self-evident, politics is a dirty business. But there is also a cloak of decorum that sometimes covers the body politic, with journalists respecting the personal struggles and private pain of many of those who govern us.

I have often been im-

**There are times when the private and the public mingle to such an extent that we have a right to know.**

pressed at how what is genuinely important to an individual but not political level has remained confidential.

But there are times, of course, when the private and the public mingle to such an extent that we have a right to know. Newly minted Liberal MP and former broadcaster Seamus O'Regan obviously believed this when he recently announced that he is seeking help in a treatment centre to "live an alcohol-free life." In other words, he struggles with alcohol, and as he begins his new work as a representative of the people, realizes that now is the time to change.

I have good friends who have acted similarly. The treatment can be relatively brief, but it's thorough and tough and the struggle never ends. Yet the hardest part is over: the admission

that there is a problem. It's humbling, frightening and, of course, opens one up to attack. As it most certainly did in this case.

Within hours of the O'Regan's statement, various conservative activists and even columnists and broadcasters were on the offensive, claiming that the man was "a drunk" and digging up criticisms he had made of former Toronto mayor Rob Ford. There's no difference between the two, they argued, but because one is a Liberal and close to Justin Trudeau he's getting an easy ride.

The juxtaposition is fatuous, offensive and downright cruel. I know O'Regan a little and have always found him to be a gentleman, but the greater point is that unlike Rob Ford, he didn't use illegal substances, he was completely honest about his problem, there is

no police investigation, he doesn't associate with shady characters and there are no manic, racist rants and embarrassing those people he represents.

Ford used prohibited drugs and repeatedly lied about it. O'Regan drank too much of what is sold on every major street in Canada and told us so. His husband tweeted how proud he was of his decision; Rob Ford is on film offering his wife to another man for sex.

What is remarkable is not how similar, but how different are these two cases. As for those who attacked a man at his most vulnerable, shame on you.

**Michael Coren** is a writer, broadcaster and author of the forthcoming *Epiphany: A Christian's Change of Heart & Mind over Same-Sex Marriage*. Find him on Twitter @michaelcoren

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# A Making a Murderer primer

## STREAMING

## A guide to the documentary everyone's talking about

The 10-part Netflix documentary series *Making a Murderer*, which casts doubt on the legal process in the case of convicted killers Steven Avery and his then-teenage nephew Brendan Dassey, has prompted celebrities to armchair sleuths to flood online message boards and Twitter feeds.

Authorities involved with the Wisconsin case say the series is slanted and omits crucial facts that led to Avery and Dassey being found guilty in the death of photographer Teresa Halbach.

The filmmakers, meanwhile, are standing by their work that spans nearly a decade and largely concentrates on the defence and perspective of Avery and Dassey's relatives.

The rush of attention has left many wondering: How did we get here? And what's next?

### The back story

Avery made national headlines in 2003 when he was released after spending nearly two decades behind bars after being wrongfully convicted of rape. Two years later, Avery and Dassey were charged with killing Halbach, who visited the Avery family salvage yard to take photos of a minivan on Halloween. Her bones and be-

longings were found burned near Avery's trailer. Both were convicted and sentenced to life terms, but only Dassey is eligible for parole — in 2048.

### The series' take

The documentary strongly suggests the possibility that Manitowoc County sheriff's deputies planted evidence against Avery, including a key found in his bedroom and blood found in the victim's vehicle. But Sheriff Robert Hermann denied that Tuesday. He said he watched the series: "I call it a film. It's missing a lot of important pieces of evidence."

### Authorities say doc is biased

The series spends much of its time detailing the perspective of Avery and Dassey family members. The case's special prosecutor, Ken Kratz has told other media outlets that the documentary ignores the majority of the physical evidence. The omissions include the fact that Avery's DNA was found on the hood latch on Halbach's SUV, which was hidden on the salvage lot. Kratz has also said a bullet fired from Avery's gun was found in his garage with Halbach's DNA on it.

### The filmmakers disagree

Laura Ricciardi and Moira Demos have stood by their work. They said in an email to the AP that critics who might say they intentionally omitted or underplayed key evidence to

make the series more entertaining or tragic are wrong. "Those accusations are untrue and unfounded," the statement said.

### Online petition

It seems unlikely an online petition seeking a pardon will work. The request posted on Change.org started by petitioning President Barack Obama, who has no such authority in this type of case, since it's not a federal matter. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker spokesperson Laurel Patrick said Tuesday in an email to the AP that the governor hasn't watched the series and that "early in his administration, Gov. Walker made the decision not to issue pardons. Those who feel they have been wrongly convicted can seek to have their convictions overturned by a higher court."

### Viewer reaction

Celebrities have tweeted about how into the series they are, late night talk show host Seth Meyers spoofed it and fake Twitter accounts have been set up for some of the main players in the case. However, Sheriff Hermann said some of his officers have received threats in emails and voice-mails. He said one was from a convicted felon who said an officer should "take his own life, or else he'd come up there and take it for him." Hermann said Tuesday that threat was passed along to Florida authorities to investigate.

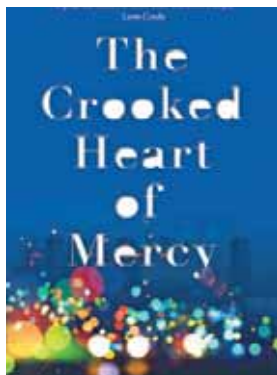
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Brendan Dassey is escorted into court in 2007 for sentencing. Dassey's case is at the centre of the Netflix documentary series *Making a Murderer*.** HERALD TIMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## NEW BOOK

# Author credits volatile childhood for her sense of humour



**Sue Carter**  
For Metro Canada

Billie Livingston has long been haunted by a family story that happened before she was born. Her father — a con artist whom she fictionalized in her 2012 novel *One Good Hustle* — and his first wife lost their two-year-old son after the toddler accidentally fell out a second-story window. "The shame and fear and grief. How do you ever get

over something like that?" asks Livingston.

In her new novel, *The Crooked Heart of Mystery* (Random House Canada), the Vancouver author attempts to answer this question by drawing on real-life stories.

Following the death of her son, grief-stricken Maggie becomes a domestic helper for a woman who worships at a church that encourages after-death visits from loved ones. Meanwhile, Maggie's estranged husband, Ben, lies in a hospital bed with an un-

explained bullet lodged in his head after taking veterinary drugs. (Ben's narrative originated with a Florida news story about a young man who shot himself during a bad mushroom trip, believing he was still asleep.)

Completing the triangle of grief is Maggie's brother Francis, a priest whose appetites for sex and alcohol land him a DUI and the star role in the viral video, "Drunk Priest Propositions Cops." Bullied horrifically as a child for being gay, Francis — whose

character stemmed from a priest friend of Livingston's in rehab for alcohol — always found protection in the church, and despite his violations, remains planted in some kind of personal faith.

While *The Crooked Heart of Mystery* could have been mired in bleak hopelessness, Livingston has a light touch, an ability to find moments of humour even in the trio's heartbreaking situation. It's a gift she credits to her own volatile upbringing.

Beyond her father's grift-

ing, her mother was a "pretty severe" addict, and young Livingston spent much of her childhood in and out of foster homes.

"There was a lot of dark stuff in my family," she says.

"There was always some mayhem going on. That's how we dealt with the darkest periods, which was to say something completely outrageous, because how else are you going to survive?"

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



# Inside Spotify's musical genre splicing

## SONIC ALGORITHMS

### Breaking down music by its digital signatures

Would you classify Justin Bieber as pop or "pop Christmas"? And is Arcade Fire a rock band or "permanent wave"? How about describing Ed Sheeran as "neo mellow," Alabama Shakes as "stomp and holler" or the versatile Grimes as "grave wave," "metropolis," "nu gaze," or all of the above?

Spotify's "data alchemist" Glenn McDonald can proudly claim authorship of some of

those eccentric descriptors. His company has used a complex algorithm to analyze and categorize upwards of 60 million songs on a molecular level — and the micro-classifications now number 1,387 sub-genres in total.

Ultimately, these machinations are allowing a new level of specificity to answer that impossible old first-date query: What kind of music are you into?

"The most interesting thing is how much music there is in the world," McDonald said. "The number of places where I expected to find five or 10 bands and found 200 is just amazing."

Using a tool called machine listening, songs are analyzed by Spotify's music-intelligence division the Echo Nest based

on their digital signatures for a number of factors, including tempo, acoustic-ness, energy, danceability, strength of the beat and emotional tone.

Taken together, those numbers can identify the distinguishing aural characteristics of different genres and regional sounds. McDonald has provided a visual representation of the subtle sonic differences at everynoise.com, which maps music along a spectrum where mechanical sounds reside at the top, organic at the bottom, atmospheric on the left and bouncy on the right.

The still-evolving tool can highlight the subtle differences in the hip-hop of Quebec and Finland, for instance, or create cross-genre comparisons be-

tween such unlikely bedfellows as Thai indie and Spanish new wave. Any curiosity about what a genre called "necrogrind," "fallen angel" or "electrofox" could possibly sound like can be satisfied with a click.

The process is still imperfect. At one point, the computers confused the sound of the banjo with human singers, simply because not enough banjo samples had been entered. In another instance, Indonesian dangdut was classified as near-identical to American country because, McDonald said, the computers had no protocol to account for twang.

"(People) imagine metal humanoid robots sitting in chairs with silver headphones

on nodding mechanically to songs and making up their robot minds," said McDonald. "But the process is totally different. There's no emotion involved. The machines are not pretending to be people."

"They're just trying to find mathematical ways of approximating the effect that humans get from music so the scores can be intelligible and reliable."

Once the machines have identified sonic similarities, a human touch is required to research the sub-genres or create new ones, a task that often falls to McDonald himself. It can be vexing as sub-genres are divvied into progressively tinier fractions; indie pop, for instance, has been subdivided into shiver pop, gauze

pop, etherpop, indie fuzz pop, popgaze, and so on.

In analyzing so much musical minutiae, McDonald has noticed that for all this century's rampant boundary-blurring, distinctive differences still exist between types of music.

"I don't think genres have gone away ... any more than cuisines have disappeared. There are more fusions," he said. "So just like you can find the Korean burrito place, that doesn't mean there aren't also Korean restaurants and Mexican restaurants."

"Maybe the firmness of the boundaries has gone away. It's more possible to exist in the spaces between genres as they blend into each other."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## 'stomp & holler'



## 'grave wave'



## 'neo mellow'



An algorithm used by Spotify defines the sound of Alabama Shakes frontwoman Brittany Howard, left, experimental musicmaker Grimes and singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran. GETTY IMAGES

## JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

### I'd rather not be kept in the poop

**THE SHOW:** Three commercials (Lifetime)

**THE MOMENT:** The Horror

So I'm watching Lifetime, whose slogan is Television for Women, and a commercial for a constipation product comes on: An accessibly pretty brunette frowns, rubs her tummy, and glugs down a grainy beverage. (Have you noticed that Everywomen are always brunettes, while Bombshells are blondes and Natural Women are redheads?) In the

morning, stretching in her jammies, Accessible Brunette smiles to show us all is well... back there. Okay, people need such products, fine. Then a second commercial appears: A different Accessible Brunette walks along clutching a brown shoulder bag, which, very distressingly, grows larger and larger until she nearly buckles. After she consumes her grainy beverage, her purse shrinks back to normal size. While I'm reeling from this depiction of someone

collapsing under the bulk of her own poo, a third commercial arrives. This time, Accessible Brunette rides down a spiral slide, but gets stuck halfway — until she consumes a beverage, and glides to the, well, bottom. So now I've watched a woman go from having a tummyache to toting around her waste to actually becoming the waste itself, and I'm thinking, what do Lifetime viewers eat, or perhaps more importantly not eat, that they suffer such indignities?

Don't they deserve one commercial where men are buying these products? Why aren't the guys who watch The History Channel or Outdoor Life Network inundated with images of Rakish Fellows toting their poop around? Why is it all beer and car ads for men, and caa-caa for women?

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

**So now I've watched a woman go from having a tummyache to toting around her waste to actually becoming the waste itself**





## Ultra-modern in the North End

**HARRIS EAST  
ON HARRIS STREET**



CONTRIBUTED

### Project overview

Organic North-end living with walkable access to all the best pubs, restaurants, coffee shops, plus the Oval and the Common, and it is downtown. Purchasers are almost ready to move into Harris East, a brand new 56-unit condo building with ultra-modern designs and rooftop terraces.

### Location and transit

Just off Agricola Street, it's within walking distance to downtown, hospitals, Spring Garden Road, the Citadel, libraries, schools, and steps from The Common and the Oval. Agricola and Gottingen streets are home to a lively array of restaurants, cafes, shops, and other local businesses. It's a vibrant neighbourhood on major routes so it's easy to catch a bus.

### Housing Amenities

Six appliances are included in purchase price and kitchen appliances are stainless steel. All units have in-suite laundry, in-floor radiant heat powered by natural gas, PolyTech tilt and turn windows, and are carpet free. All units come with one deeded, underground parking spot in the heated garage.

### In the neighbourhood

Welcome to the North End. It's a cup of fair-trade coffee, a patch of grass and a good read on The Common. It's an early-morning jog down Agricola Street, and sampling craft brews before walking a few blocks home. This is a neighborhood meant for living and enjoying the best of Halifax.

### + NEED TO KNOW

**What:** Harris East  
**Builder:** Atlantic Developments Inc.  
**Location:** Harris Street, Halifax  
**Building:** Condominiums  
**Sizes:** Just under 500 sq. ft. to almost 1,000 sq. ft.  
**Pricing:** Starting at \$199,900, 42 of 56 units have been sold

**Suites:** From studios to two bedroom plus den with several different floor plans.  
**Status:** Nearly completed. The first purchasers are moving in this month.  
**Sales centre:** 2114 Gottingen St.  
**Phone:** 902-404-3354  
**Website:** harriseast.ca

# 4

## BEAUTIFUL BLASTS FROM THE DESIGN WORLD PAST

They say that everything that goes around, comes around. Home decor trends for 2016 are certainly proving that true. Look for inspiration from the 1970s and '80s when accessing the trends for this year—a flashback in time becomes the future for our homes.

**Karl Lohnes**  
For Metro Canada



- 1 Darth Vader Toaster**  
The scariest reminder of the late '70s is now available to imprint your toast each morning. \$75, UrbanOutfitters.com.
- 2 Desigual Denim Folk Duvet Cover**  
Add some jean patches and flower-power for some Partridge family love in the bedroom. \$179, Simons.ca
- 3 Retro Vase**  
They'll think you dug this one up from your grannies basement. \$65, CB2.com
- 4 Dial Dining Table**  
'70s gold and walnut offer up stylish dining from the past. \$900, CB2.com



Lakers GM Mitch Kupchak told ESPN that Kobe Bryant's retirement tour comes ahead of the development of L.A.'s young players

## IN BRIEF

### Preds trade Jones for Blue Jackets' Johansen

The Nashville Predators traded defenceman Seth Jones to the Columbus Blue Jackets for centre Ryan Johansen on Wednesday, giving up a young piece of their defence in search of some more offence.

Johansen, 23, has 79 goals and 114 assists in 309 career games and was the fourth overall pick in the 2010 draft. Jones, 21, was the fourth overall pick in the 2013 draft.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Sill suspended two games

Washington Capitals forward Zach Sill was suspended for two games without pay by the NHL on Wednesday for boarding Boston Bruins defenceman Adam McQuaid.

Sill, a Cole Harbour native, hit McQuaid from behind during the Capitals' 3-2 victory in Boston Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Griffey headed to HOF with record voting percentage

Ken Griffey Jr. has been elected to the baseball Hall of Fame with the highest voting percentage ever, and Mike Piazza also is headed to Cooperstown.

A star slugger of the Steroids Era never tainted by accusations of drug use, Griffey was on 437 of 440 votes in his first appearance on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot. His 99.3 percentage topped Tom Seaver's 98.84 in 1992. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 'A positive for both sides'

QMJHL

## Herd move sniper Meier, GM says team all in on rebuild



Philip Croucher  
Metro | Halifax

Timo Meier is expecting this to be his last year of junior hockey and wants to go out on a winning team.

The rebuilding Halifax Mooseheads gave him his wish.

The QMJHL squad dealt its star import player and captain to the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies for three draft picks — including both first- and second-round selections in 2017.

"We talked and tried to find what's best for me. I think it's a positive for both sides," Meier said of conversations he had with Mooseheads GM Cam Russell, and his decision to move his no-trade clause and go to the Huskies.

"Rouyn is a great fit. They have a great team."

Meier, who was selected ninth overall by the San Jose Sharks in last year's NHL entry draft, had 11 goals and 36 points in 23 games for the rebuilding Mooseheads this season.

Meier had 72 goals and 88 assists in 150 career games.

Also coming Halifax's way from Rouyn-Noranda is a fourth-round pick in the 2018 draft.



Halifax Mooseheads forward Timo Meier, shown here during the pre-season, has been dealt to the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Meier hasn't been with the Mooseheads since early December, when he left to play for Team Switzerland at the world junior hockey championship.

He was in Switzerland on Wednesday when he found out about the trade, which came

down on the window's final hours.

He's not sure if he'll fly directly to Rouyn-Noranda now, or stop in Halifax first for a proper goodbye.

"It's a wonderful organization. The fans are incredible. I

made a lot of friendships and was really close to my billet family," Meier said of his time with the Mooseheads.

"Halifax was kind of like a second home. I'll always be happy to go back there any time."

Russell admitted it was tough to part ways with Meier but pointed out given the position they are in the standings, the goal for this year's trade window was to get younger, and they did just that.



**There's mixed emotions. It's sad leaving Halifax but I'm really excited to go to Rouyn. That is a very good team.** Timo Meier

## TRADE WINDOW

### Mooseheads fill their pockets with draft picks

Wednesday's move by Halifax was one of four significant ones made in the past month. Also moved during the trade window were leading scoring Danny Moynihan and defenceman Cavan Fitzgerald to the Shawinigan Cataractes and blue-liner Cody Donaghey to the Moncton Wildcats.

Halifax received high draft picks, and some instances, young players, in all of the moves.

"We had a plan and we moved four older players and got a good return for them," GM Cam Russell said.

"If you look at the four guys we moved (too), all four of them went to contending teams. We are happy for them."

To wrap things up on Wednesday, Halifax also dealt 18-year-old Samuel Hunter to the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada for an eighth-round draft pick in 2016.

"It's a situation we found ourselves in. That's what made the decision easier," he said of going all in on the rebuild.

"It was time to move those key players and help speed up the process of improving our team."

NHL

# Crosby left off of all-star team rosters

The upcoming NHL all-star game will be missing one of the sport's top players.

Pittsburgh Penguins forward Sidney Crosby wasn't included on the roster list Wednesday for the league's mid-season showcase in Nashville on Jan. 30-31.

As part of a new format this year, players will

take part in a three-game tournament, played in a 3-on-3 format, and featuring teams representing each NHL division.

Veteran centre Evgeni Malkin and defenceman Kris Letang will represent the Penguins on the Metropolitan Division team. Roster limitations — six forwards, three defencemen and two goalies for each division — led to Crosby's exclusion.

Crosby, a 28-year-old native of Cole Harbour, has appeared in only one all-star game (2007), missing three due to Olympic commitments

## CAPTAINS

Earlier, fans voted Florida's Jaromir Jagr (Atlantic), Chicago's Patrick Kane (Central), Washington's Alex Ovechkin (Metropolitan) and Arizona's John Scott (Pacific) as the division captains.

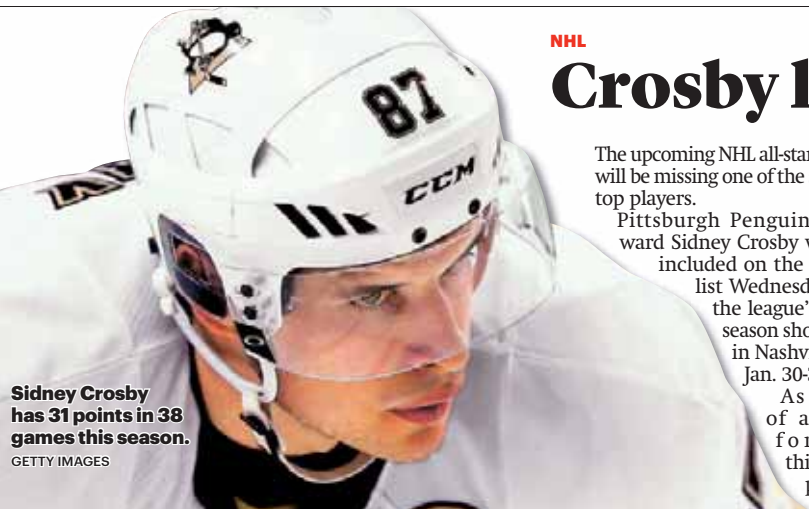
and five because of injuries.

His numbers this season are decent but not at their usual level.

Since his 102-point rookie campaign in 2005-06, Crosby has averaged over a point per game in every season until this one. His play has improved of late but he still entered Wednesday's game in Chicago with 31 points (12 goals, 19 assists) in 38 games.

Forward Leo Komarov of the Toronto Maple Leafs and defencemen Erik Karlsson of the Ottawa Senators and P.K. Subban of the Montreal Canadiens were named to the Atlantic Division team.

THE CANADIAN PRESS, WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sidney Crosby has 31 points in 38 games this season.

GETTY IMAGES





Green Bay QB has started 11 post-season games while Redskins QB Kirk Cousins has only played in one. WESLEY HITT/GETTY IMAGES

# Packed full of experience

NFL

## Redskins can't match Green Bay's rich past in post-season

Two straight losses to finish the regular season sapped the Green Bay Packers of momentum going into the playoffs.

They do have at least one distinct advantage in their wild-card matchup this weekend against Washington. Been there, done that. Green Bay is making its franchise-record seventh straight post-season appearance. The New England Patriots are the only other NFL team that has been to the playoffs seven straight years.

"I think that you can harness the feelings and the things that worked in the wins and also think back on the feeling when you lost and your season's over and you try to use that as motivation," quarterback Aaron

Rodgers said Wednesday.

"It can really give you the inspiration to work a little bit harder during the week and try to execute a little bit better," he added.

The longest-tenured Packer, Rodgers has started 11 post-season games and played in the post-season each year since 2009.

The Redskins will be making just their fifth playoff appearance since 1993 and first in three seasons, when they lost a wild-card game at home to Seattle. Washington quarterback Kirk Cousins played in that 24-14 loss on Jan. 6, 2013, entering in relief of injured starter Robert Griffin III. It is his only post-season appearance.

Said Cousins: "Playing at home can certainly help our ability to play at a high level, but as far as does it offset things? I don't know. But I do know (the

Packers are) a very experienced, talented team." Looked at another way, Green Bay has 212

“

**Playing at home can certainly help our ability to play at a high level.**

Redskins QB Kirk Cousins

games of play-off experience on its roster compared with 76 for Washington, according to STATS.

And that's counting the veterans who came over as free agents, like defensive linemen Terrance Knighton and Ricky Jean Francois, and safety Dashon Goldson, who together have 19 games of post-season experience.

"We've got some veteran guys on this team that have really done a great job as far as leadership's concerned of showing the young guys how to work and prepare and make sure they do the right thing," Redskins coach Jay Gruden said. But those experiences still pale in comparison to Green Bay, where seasons

## + ROUNDUP

- Chiefs linebacker Justin Houston confirmed Wednesday that he plans to play in Saturday's wild-card game in Houston, his first game since hyper-extending his knee in November. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady says his right ankle is feeling better. Brady walked without an apparent limp for his media availability on Wednesday. He said getting the week off before the Patriots' first playoff game will be helpful. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- Canadian offensive lineman Ben Heenan is getting another shot at cracking the Indianapolis Colts' roster. The NFL team has signed the Regina guard to a contract. THE CANADIAN PRESS

are judged more by how far the team got in the playoffs rather than just making it.

"That's the expectation and that's what we're all about," second-year receiver Jared Abbrederis said. "It's a good thing to be around." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEAGUE CUP

## Everton leads City in semifinal

Romelu Lukaku kept up his hot scoring streak by grabbing a late winner for Everton to beat Manchester City 2-1 in the first leg of their English League Cup semifinal on Wednesday.

Lukaku restored Everton's lead in a thrilling second half at Goodison Park, two minutes after substitute Jesus Navas equalized for City on a counter-attack led by Sergio Aguero.

Defender Ramiro Funes Mori put Everton ahead in first-half injury time when he steered home the rebound after Ross Barkley's shot was parried out.

Lukaku, who hobbled off with an apparent injury soon after scoring, has

19 goals this season. He's failed to score in only two of his last 12 games.

The second leg is on Jan. 27. Liverpool leads Stoke 1-0 after the first leg of the other semifinal. It was Everton's Ross Barkley who instigated the opener, firing in a fierce effort that Willy Caballero couldn't hold. Funes Mori was on hand to turn the ball



Romelu Lukaku got injured after scoring. GETTY IMAGES

home for the Argentine's second goal for Everton.

Everton conceded after over-committing in search of a second goal. Aguero controlled a long clearance forward and had only two defenders in front of him. He laid in a perfectly weighted pass for Navas, who had sprinted up-field and met it with a first-time diagonal shot past Joel Robles.

Lukaku had the final say, planting home a firm header from man-of-the-match Gareth Barry's left-wing cross — potentially setting up a Merseyside derby in the final at Wembley Stadium next month.

Everton has never won the League Cup. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IN BRIEF

### Ex Chelsea doctor attends tribunal after taking action over Mourinho row

Former Chelsea team doctor Eva Carneiro has appeared at a tribunal hearing for her constructive dismissal case against the English Premier League champions.

Carneiro was dropped after Jose Mourinho called his medical staff 'naive' for taking to the field to treat Eden Hazard with Chelsea a man down. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Kiwi Crowley resigns as Canada rugby coach

Two weeks after agreeing to a two-year contract extension, Kieran Crowley has resigned as coach of the

Canadian men's rugby team. Citing ongoing negotiations, Crowley would only say he was quitting to take over an Italian club team.

The New Zealander, 54, was named Canadian coach in 2008, leading it to two World Cups. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### All-star Gordon has agreed new deal with Royals: Source

All-Star outfielder Alex Gordon agreed to a \$72 million, four-year deal Wednesday to remain with the World Series champion Kansas City Royals, a person familiar with the details told The Associated Press. Gordon must still pass a physical. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Royals had not announced the contract. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## RECIPE Pumpkin Gnocchi



PHOTO: MAVA VINNIE

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada



So good it's worth the effort.

**Ready in**  
Prep time: 60 minutes  
**Serves 4**

**Ingredients**

- 1 1/2 cups pumpkin puree
- 3/4 cup fresh ricotta
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, finely grated
- 1 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 1 1/3 cups flour
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 lb cremini mushrooms, cleaned, trimmed and sliced
- 3 Tbsp fresh sage, chopped

**Directions**

**1.** In a large bowl, combine potato puree with ricotta until well blended. Add the Parmesan, sugar, salt and nutmeg and blend. Add a 1/2 cup of flour at a time until a soft dough forms.

- 2.** Turn dough out onto a well-floured surface and separate into 3 or 4 pieces. Using your hands, roll dough out into a long, even tube, about 10-inch in diameter. With a sharp paring knife, cut each rope into about 20 pieces. Keep working until you have about a 60 pieces.
- 3.** Bring a big pot of well-salted water to a boil.
- 4.** Melt butter in a large skillet until it starts to brown. Add mushrooms and sage and cook for 3 minutes, and remove from heat.
- 5.** Add gnocchi to the boiling water about a dozen at a time. Cook each batch for about 5 or 6 minutes, until the gnocchi floats to the top. Allow water to return to a boil between batches. Place cooked gnocchi in a large bowl and set aside.
- 6.** Once all of the gnocchi is cooked, put the skillet back on the heat. Add your gnocchi and allow it all to heat up together. Gently stir so the pasta gets covered in the sage butter. Serve with a fresh sage for garnish.

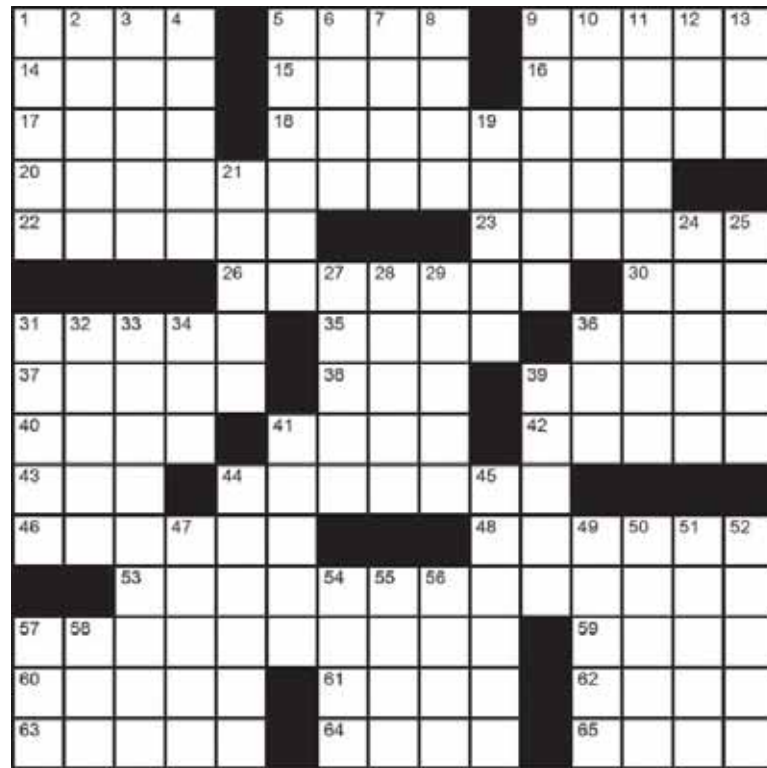
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## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

**ACROSS**

1. 1300 in ancient Rome  
5. Mail  
9. Record label  
14. Director Mr. Petri  
15. Entreaty  
16. Sir Newton  
17. Composer Mr. Schiffrin  
18. Crown Royal Northern \_\_ (Canadian drink which is the 2016 World Whisky of the Year winner as chosen by whisky-expert-from-Britain Jim Murray)  
20. Vancouver-born singer/songwriter, lead singer of Chilli-wack: 2 wds.  
22. Three sharps music key: letter + word  
23. Meal  
26. Whistlers in kitchens  
30. French 'tea'  
31. Stockpile  
35. Tilled  
36. "Buenos \_\_!"  
37. Metal mixture  
38. Decide  
39. Make a funny noise when laughing  
40. Scratch  
41. Math course, for short  
42. Canadian actor Dean McDermott's mother-in-law  
43. Olde-style word  
44. Bitterness  
46. Shoe part  
48. Rent your apart-



- ment out  
53. Tossed workout items: 2 wds.  
57. \_\_ Milk (Product by #11-Down)  
59. Lioness in "The Lion King" (1994)  
60. French com-

- poser, Erik \_\_ (b.1866 - d.1925)  
61. Crate strip  
62. Mideast ruler, variantly  
63. Toboggans  
64. Choir member  
65. Glasgow gal

**DOWN**

1. Grissol product, \_\_ Toast  
2. Insurance filing  
3. "You're My World": 1964 hit for \_\_ Black  
4. Actor/rap-

- per, LL \_\_  
5. Globe  
6. Exuberance  
7. Dweeb  
8. Canadian comic actor Mr. Foley  
9. Slangy insults  
10. Impede, in law

11. As per #57-Across... Food brand with a flowery name and logo  
12. Islet  
13. Champion  
19. Boo-boooed  
21. Overly sentimental  
24. The \_\_ (Tallest building in London in England)  
25. Irritable  
27. Rose's ouch-inducer  
28. Subject  
29. Avril Lavigne's 2002 debut album: 2 wds.  
31. Mojave plants  
32. "\_\_\_ the Family"  
33. Fellow student  
34. By what method?  
36. Genetic stuff  
39. Exfoliating \_\_ (Skincare product)  
41. South American animal  
44. Changes  
45. "Man I \_\_\_ Be" by k-os  
47. Lukewarm  
49. Vapid  
50. Andes animal  
51. Island near the Statue of Liberty  
52. Sovereign sorts  
54. House, in Havana  
55. "\_\_\_ be okay." (There, there)  
56. Clean-cut  
57. Cousin of -enne  
58. Ms. Bertinelli, to pals

## ★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
You will be taken by surprise no matter how prepared you are today. Changes on the work front may be unsettling but if you stay calm and use your head you can easily change them to your advantage.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
You have a lot of new responsibilities and are wondering if you are doing too much. Things will get on top of you today to such an extent you'll be forced to cut back on commitments.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
It is too late to back out of something you thought would be easy — you must go through with it. Strive to make a good job of it and, next time, don't volunteer so eagerly.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
The Sun is at odds with Uranus, planet of changes, and it will shock you out of your complacency. You've coasted along long enough — now you must live up to your potential.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
Try not to attach too much importance to minor setbacks. Deal with problems as they arise and don't take anything too seriously. Your attitude to what happens is most important.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
Something will force you to change your plans but you don't have to abandon them altogether. The route you were planning to take may be blocked but there are other ways to reach your destination. Be flexible.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
You won't get your way today, especially on the home front. You are advised to let partners and loved ones call the shots just this once.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
Forces over which you have no control will upset your plans but the long-term forecast is still good. You may even be pleased that you were compelled to change direction. Everything happens for a reason.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
Try not to fall out with a friend today because it may be a long time before you get the chance to make up again. What they do may be annoying but you will only make matters worse if you make a big deal of it.

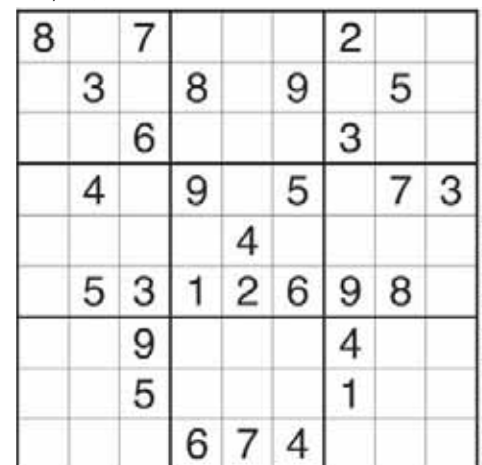
**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
Like it or not you will have to admit that no matter how much you might want to fit into a certain environment it was never meant to be. Today's Sun-Uranus link indicates it is time to bring to an end something.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
Be true to your principles and do the right thing. Your reputation will surely head south if you cut corners or try to get round the rules. There is much more than money at stake.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
You'll find lots to occupy your mind today, if you enjoy a challenge. But if you're the type who gets upset when nothing goes right you might want to stay in bed a few hours longer!

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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